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MOONRAY KOJIMA, ATTORNEY

DATE: 7/5/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIRS:

Kindly amend the above as follows:

Claims 1-30, cancel without prejudice

Add claims 31-58, appearing in the appendix attached hereto.

REMARKS

Claims 31-58 are in the application replacing claims 1-30 which were cancelled to expedite prosecution. The new claims were drafted to be more in line with US practice.

Examination, entry of this amendment, and allowance are respectfully solicited.

respectfully

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

31. A medical image service method for use by a network; a transmitting subscriber connected to said network; a receiving subscriber connected to said network; and a server connected to said network, wherein said server registers or stores medical image or imaging condition transmitted by said transmitting subscriber in a data base and delivers said medical image or imaging condition to said receiving subscriber.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said medical image is associated with at least one image selected from the group consisting of images of MRI, X-ray CT, ultrasound, PET, digitized X-ray and CR.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said medical image is compressed in data size when transmitted on said network; and wherein transmitted data is decompressed into an original data on a receiving end.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said server checks legitimacy of said transmitting subscriber or said receiving subscriber.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein said server provides a backup of said medical image registered in said database.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein said receiving subscriber sends format information, comprising image identifier information, to a hard copy device; and wherein said hard copy device obtains delivery of a medical image corresponding to said

image identifier information from said server via said network and provides hard copy of said medical image.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein said server transmits, via said network, to a delivery destination, a medical image and imaging condition for said medical image.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein said transmitting subscriber and said receiving subscriber is a software executing subscriber running medical software; and wherein said server manages medical software and registers said medical software in said database and delivers said medical software to said software executing subscriber.

39. A medical central management server comprising:

means for registering a medical image, imaging condition, or medical software in a database when requested by a subscriber connected to a network; and

means for obtaining medical image, imaging condition, or software from said database and delivering same to a subscriber connected to said network

40. A medical service system comprising:

at least one subscriber permitted to send and receive medical images via a network; and

at least one server for applying image processing to said medical images and for sending processed medical images back to said subscriber.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein said subscriber comprises an image registering subscriber permitted to register

medical images and an image receiving subscriber permitted to receive medical images; and wherein said server registers medical images sent by said image registering subscriber in said database and delivers said medical images to said image receiving subscriber.

42. The system of claim 40, wherein said subscriber comprises an image sending subscriber permitted to send medical images via said network; and an image receiving subscriber permitted to receive medical images via said network; and wherein said server comprises means for applying image processing to medical images sent by said image sending subscriber, and means for sending the processed medical images to said image receiving subscriber.

43. The system of claim 40, wherein said system comprises two or more subscribers.

44. The system of claim 40, comprising a plurality of said servers and wherein processing is shared by said plurality of servers.

45. The system of claim 42, wherein at least one of said image sending subscriber and said image receiving subscriber specifies type of image processing to be communicated to said server.

46. The system of claim 42, wherein said server informs said image sending subscriber and said image receiving subscriber of type of image processing to be applied.

47. The system of claim 42, wherein said server estab-

lishes communication with said image sending subscriber or image receiving subscriber when said image processing is completed, and sends said medical images subjected to image processing to said image sending receiver or said image receiving subscriber.

48. The system of claim 42, wherein said image sending subscriber or said image receiving subscriber sends a request for medical images subjected to image processing, to said server and receives said medical images via said network.

49. The system of claim 40, wherein said server stores each medical image in at least one form before image processing and in at least one form after image processing.

50. The system of claim 48, wherein said request is for only part or all of said medical images, and said only part or all of said medical images being sent via said network.

51. The system of claim 42, wherein said server polls said image sending subscriber and said image receiving subscriber via said network to collect medical images before image processing.

52. The system of claim 42, wherein said medical images are associated with at least one of the group of images consisting of MRI, X-ray CT, ultrasound, PET, digitized X-ray and CR.

53. The system of claim 42, further comprising means for transmitting medical images compressed in data size through said network; and means for decompressing transmitted data in original data on a receiving end.

54. The system of claim 42, wherein said server comprises security means for checking legitimacy of said subscribers.

55. The system of claim 42, wherein said server comprises a backup means for providing backup record of said medical images registered in said database.

56. The system of claim 42, wherein said image sending subscriber or said image receiving subscriber sends format information including image identifier information to a hard copy means, and further comprising said hard copy means for providing a hard copy of said medical images sent by said server through said network.

57. The system of claim 42, wherein said server sends through said network to a delivery destination imaging conditions for said medical images.

58. The system of claim 40, wherein said subscriber is a software executing subscriber permitted to run medical software through said network; and wherein said server comprises means for registering medical software in a database, and means for delivering said medical software to said software executing subscriber through said network.